



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 20, 2003

Contact: Kristin L. Rieber

Toll Free (866) 262-7307

## **Patterson's Ducks Unlimited License Plates Save Wetlands**

**LANSING** – Senate Bill 193 develops a state-sponsored Ducks Unlimited (DU) fundraising license plate for the protection, enhancement, and acquisition of Michigan wetlands, said Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton, 7<sup>th</sup> District).

“I am pleased to have worked with Ducks Unlimited on this bill. Through the ordinary act of renewing your license plate, Michigan residents can help accomplish the extraordinary,” Patterson said. “Funds generated through the Ducks Unlimited license plates will play a significant role in the conservation of Michigan’s wetlands for future generations.”

David Brakhage, Ducks Unlimited Inc. Regional Biological Supervisor of the Great Lakes and Atlantic Region testified in support of SB 193. “Michigan has a strong tradition of devotion to wildlife habitat and its conservation. This bill will provide a voluntary mechanism for Michigan residents to show their support for the habitat conservation efforts of Ducks Unlimited.”

SB 193 will create a specialty license plate for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to generate funds for wetland habitat conservation in Michigan. DU license plates can be used to register cars, trucks, boat trailers and other recreational vehicles. Other fundraising license plates offered at the Secretary of State include, Agricultural Heritage, Children's Trust Fund, Lighthouse Preservation, Veteran's Memorial, Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, Patriotic, Olympic Education, and university plates from fifteen state-supported universities. Current specialty plates can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/>.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is the largest private, non-profit wetland habitat conservation organization in the world with 40,000 DU members in Michigan. Since 1985, DU has delivered more than 901 projects in the state conserving more than 44,500 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands. DU has spent approximately \$9.5 million on these projects. The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated uplands for North American waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

SB 193 unanimously passed the Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee. It will now be considered by the full Senate.

#####